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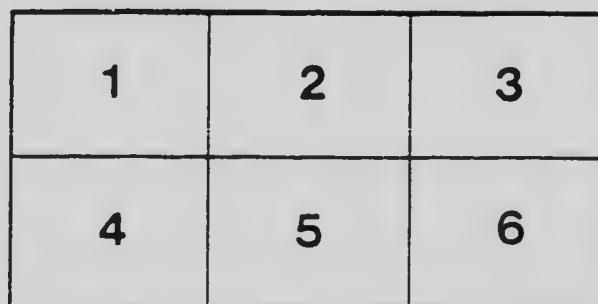
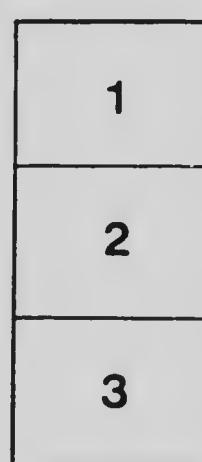
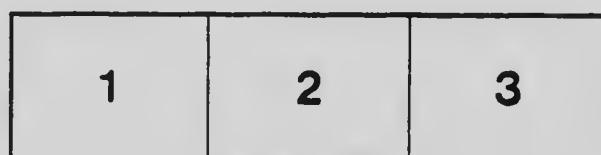
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The Grand Z.'s Address

*To the Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter
of Canada, Royal Arch Masons :*

COMPANIONS :

I have much pleasure in extending to you a hearty welcome to the Sixty-First Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the holding of which is unique in the History of our Grand Chapter, in as much, as it is the first Annual Convocation ever held West of the Great Lakes. When Grand Chapter was first organized, the city, in which we are now assembled, was non-existent, and its situation marked by a Hudson Bay Post ; a small Frontier Fort, erected more for the purpose of barter and trade, with the Indian population, than for any idea of defense. The City of Winnipeg was at one time regarded as the "far flung line" of Western Canada, but owing to the rapid development and great expansion of the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia, it is now situated at nearly the centre of our Great Dominion. It may also be interesting to note that this will in all probability be the last time the Grand Chapter of Canada will meet West of the Great Lakes, as it is undoubtedly true that within another decade each of the Provinces of the West will have a Grand Chapter of its own.

THE WAR.

Although the heading of this paragraph is "The War," it is not my intention to mention the World's Great Struggle, but rather to refer briefly, to the return of the Sons of Canada, who, so gallantly and gloriously participated in that great conflict. I wish particularly to interest your thoughts and sympathy for those who have returned, other than in a condition of physical fitness, and to strongly impress upon your minds, that the glib phrases so readily dropping from the lips

of many people, to the effect, that the Returned Soldier has become unfit by his martial life to easily resume his civilian duties, or that he is suffering from a general condition of neurasthenia, which renders him unfit for office work, are absolutely untrue. There is nothing more desired by the Returned Soldier than the privilege of being permitted to resume his civilian standing, with such assistance as may be necessary, owing to the particular circumstances applicable to each individual case. Many of these men cannot resume their previous occupations, owing to disabilities contracted while serving their Country's need, and provision must be made to see that these boys are placed in proper positions according to their abilities. The Government has generously provided different forms of instruction to enable those suffering from disabilities to embark upon new forms of living and methods of maintenance, and it is most pleasing to notice with what eagerness these returned boys embrace these opportunities for fitting themselves to become useful citizens. Nevertheless, many of these men will never be physically able to take up the full duties of life, and will have to be content to perform such work, as may fall within the limit of their capacity; for this class the Government has provided a pension so that they may be able to obtain the necessities of life, and possibly some of the luxuries. The question of pension is not one to be dealt with in this address, but it must be mentioned as it leads to the next step.

MASONIC BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY.

The word Charity has practically lost its meaning in these later days, and now seems to convey the intention of the giving of money to more or less deserving applicants. I totally disagree with this conception of the word, when applied to Masonry. To my mind it is to extend to a Brother, who is in distress, or who may have done wrong, or who may have committed a grave crime against the laws of the country, kindly sympathy and assistance as may be justified in a case under consideration. Do not mistake my meaning. I am unalterably opposed to the mantle of Masonic

Charity covering the wrong doing of any kind, either Masonic or civil, but, I think, true Masonic Charity consists in a friendly interest and kindly sympathy to a Brother, whose pathway of life has not been of the rosiest, and in overlooking small personal faults and characteristic, sins of omission and commission, and all the frailties to which the human flesh is heir. No man is perfect, we have all our faults, some good in a greater or less degree, some bad in a greater or less degree, and our Masonic Charity should pardon and condone to the utmost, that strict justice will permit; but *Masonic Benevolence* is of another character, and brings to our minds certain definite duties, which we as Masons, owe to each other, and to the dependents of each other. Many, in fact all, Masonic Grand Bodies have a Rest or Reserve Fund for Brethren suffering from the misfortunes of life. Its administration is expressed in many different forms such as Masonic Homes, Orphan Asylums, Schools and direct money grants.

It is not my purpose to discuss the different forms in which the dispersal of Masonic Benevolence may be made, because each form has many good points, but rather to invite your attention to the fact, that owing to the great number of fraternal beneficent societies, now operating in our Country, there seems to be a subconscious feeling, in many cases, that grants from Masonic Benevolent Funds are a *quid pro quo* for money paid into the Craft. This sentiment cannot be too strongly condemned, as grants from Masonic Benevolence are in no wise similar to money paid for insurance to the different Fraternal Insurance Organizations, and must ever be regarded, as one of the sacred privileges of Masonry, whereby the Brethren, freely and voluntary, extend to a needy Brother such help as may be needful in the time of trouble.

I trust that I have made myself clear, because, I again approach the subject of the Returned Soldier. In this connection, the soldier who has become disabled will receive his pension, according to the classification of his disabilities. He will also be enabled, in many cases, to make a fair compensation by following some

special vocation, but there still remains a class which will require Masonic Benevolence, and it is in behalf of these cases that I now ask your attention.

It is true that the Grand Chapter of Canada has a Reserve Fund, but it is questionable, to my mind, if this Fund will be sufficient to honor the necessary drafts which will be made upon it in the near future. It is not my intention to lay before you any particular scheme for raising money for the Benevolent Fund of Grand Chapter, but merely to direct your attention to the fact, that we may be called upon, in the near future, to make a fairly substantial addition to this Fund. I hope that it will not be necessary to do so, but if the necessity arises, I entertain no doubt, but that the emergency will be met with that promptitude which has characterized our actions as Royal Arch Masons in the past.

THE DEPARTED.

Among the Companions who have died during the past year are :

M. Ex. Comp. John Ross Robertson, Grand Z., in 1893-4, died, May 31st, 1918. Up to the time of his death our late Companion took an active interest in the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry. As a Masonic authority, he was recognized the world over, and his presence at our Annual Convocations will be sadly missed. He has departed to his eternal reward, but his memory will be long cherished by those who knew him in life.

R. Ex. Comp. Isaac Huber, Grand Superintendent, Georgian District, No. 9, in 1896-7; died, July 20th, 1918. Comp. Huber took a keen interest in all branches of Masonry up to the day of his death, and his loss will long be felt by the Companions of the District.

R. Ex. Comp. John B. Brennan, Grand Registrar, in 1916-7, died, January 26th, 1919. He was a keen Ritualist and a devoted Mason, and those who knew him will long hold his memory in honor and esteem.

V. Ex. Comp. Sydney A. Luke, Past Grand Director of Ceremonies, in 1896-7, died November 23rd, 1918. He was a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of

Canada, in the Province of Ontario. A strong worker in all branches of Masonry, and a delightful Companion to meet.

Other Companions have died, and their names will appear in these Proceedings.

HONOR ROLL.

In this year's Proceedings will appear as last year, the names of the Companions who have been reported to the Grand Scribe E's office as having enlisted for Overseas Service. Among the names will be seen many brave Canadian soldiers who paid the "Price," while engaged in the noble cause of defeating the foe of the Central Powers of Europe.

CANADIAN JURISDICTION.

Nova Scotia—M. Ex. Comp. Luther Bracette Archibald, P.G.H.P. died, February 10th, 1918. He was born at Truro, N.S., April 12th, 1849, and spent nearly his whole life there. Comp. Archibald was prominently connected with all branches of Masonry.

FRATERNAL DEAD FROM AMERICAN JURISDICTIONS.

The Grand Jurisdictions of the United States, during the past year, have lost by death, so we have been informed, the following prominent Companions :

Alabama—George Alburtus Joiner, Past Grand Secretary.

California—Charles Willis Norton, P.G.H.P.; Charles Fayette Lott, P.G.H.P.

Colorado—George D. Kennedy, P.G.H.P.

Georgia—Marshall Atkinson Weir, Grand Treasurer.

Illinois—Marcus M. Lord, P.G.H.P.

Iowa—Isaac T. Forbes, P.G.H.P.

Kansas—Matthew Murray Miller, P.G.H.P.

Maine—Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary Emeritus.

Maryland—Charles Beatty Finley, P.G.H.P.

Michigan—Reuben Charles Webb, P.G.H.P.
Minnesota—Giles William Merrill, P.G.H.P.,
Nathan Kingsley, P.G.H.P.
Nebraska—Frank Henry Oreutt Young, P.G.H.P.;
Julius J. Wilson, P.G.H.P.
Nevada—Enoch Strother, P.G.H.P.
New Jersey—Louis A. Menegaux, D.G.H.P.
Ohio—Lewis Mackay Lea, P.G.H.P.; Ralph
Reamer Rickly, Grand Treasurer.
South Carolina—Robert Edward Turnipseed, Grand
Chaplain.
Texas—William Anderson Scott, P.G.H.P.; John
P. Bell, P.G.H.P.; Samuel May Williams, P.G.H.P.
Utah—Birt Griffin Blackman, P.G.H.P.

THE PROPOSED GRAND CHAPTER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

About the middle of February last, I received a Communication from M. Ex. Comp. Henry Watson of Vancouver, British Columbia, in which he stated, that a movement was on foot to form a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the Province of British Columbia. A copy of the circular letter issued by M. Ex. Comp. Watson was enclosed with the Communication. Two extracts from the letter are as follows :

"M. Ex. Comp. Watson asked the Principals and Past Principals of Vancouver, New Westminister and North Vancouver, to meet him informally and talk the matter over. This informal meeting took place on the 30th of January, at which there were an attendance of twenty-seven Principals, and apologies for unavoidable absence, were sent by many others. It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting, that a Grand Chapter for the Province should be formed, and that M. Ex. Comp. Watson should commence with the Chapters in British Columbia, asking them to participate in the movement. If this communication should meet with a favorable response, that matter will

be at once taken up with the Grand Chapter of Canada, and steps to form a Grand Chapter in British Columbia will be inaugurated."

"We desire to do all with the full consent and approval of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and we have every reason to believe that no objection will be made by that Grand Chapter to a friendly separation, and that we shall be able to work with the Grand Chapter of Canada for the benefit of Capitular Masonry in Canada."

As the Grand Chapter of Canada had already placed itself on record, regarding the formation of Grand Chapters in the different provinces, which declaration will be found on page 206, of the Grand Chapter Proceedings, 1917, it was with much pleasure that I replied, to M. Ex. Comp. Watson, wishing him and the Companions of British Columbia every success in their endeavors, and assuring them that they would meet with nothing, but the kindest of fraternal good will from the Grand Chapter of Canada. I also drew his attention to the fact, that he was to be particularly careful that every Chapter in British Columbia was represented by a duly accredited representative. At the time of writing this address nothing further has been received from him.

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

I have no doubt you will be greatly pleased to know that the affairs of our Grand Chapter are in an excellent condition. The interim reports of the Grand Superintendents are most optimistic in tone ; all report steady and substantial progress, and from a perusal of their annual statements which will be submitted to Grand Chapter you will find, that their predictions have been verified. In many respects this has been the most successful year in the History of Grand Chapter, and too much credit cannot be given to the excellent work of the Grand Scribe E. and the Grand Superintendents, for their unsparing efforts in the interests of Grand Chapter. As for myself, while endeavoring to

maintain a general supervision over matters connected with the office of Grand Z., I was absolutely unable to leave the Military District with which I have been and am now so closely connected. Were the reasons which detained me other than National and Patriotic, I would do nothing but apologize most sincerely to Grand Chapter, but owing to peculiar conditions, and more especially to the sudden return of troops from overseas in large numbers, the service of a man in my peculiar capacity was absolutely indispensable, and it so happened that in Military District No. 12, I was the only officer of sufficient standing and experience available for the work which is still very pressing and needful. The Constituent Chapters have not lost much, but I feel that my personal loss, by being deprived of the privilege of making visits to the Principal centres, can never be made up to me.

THE SASH.

At the last Convocation of Grand Chapter, at which the Constitution was revised, legislation was passed obliterating the Sash from the Regalia worn by Royal Arch Masons. This action has been strongly resented in many portions of the Grand Jurisdiction, and a Notice of Motion has already been placed upon the Agenda Paper, asking that the legislation of last year be reconsidered and the Sash restored. I trust that this will be given complete and full consideration, that the debate upon the question will be final, and that every member of Grand Chapter who desires to do so will express his personal opinion upon the question.

APPOINTMENTS.

Vacancies having occurred in the Representations of other Grand Bodies near the Grand Chapter of Canada, I recommended the Companions named, which were approved :

Alberta—R. Ex. Comp. J. K. Brydon, Kenora, Ontario.

California—R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Rogers, Toronto, Ontario.

Colorado—R. Ex. Comp. James McC. Potts,
Stirling, Ontario.

Louisiana—R. Ex. Comp. William Young Mills,
Kingston, Ontario.

New South Wales—R. Ex. Comp. Francis B.
Reilly, Regina, Sask.

New York—M. Ex. Comp. F. W. Harcourt,
Toronto, Ontario.

Oregon—R. Ex. Comp. D. A. Clark, Ottawa,
Ontario.

Vacancies having occurred in the representation of
the Grand Chapter of Canada near the other Grand
Bodies, I approved of the following recommendations :

Florida—R. Ex. Comp. Chester De Rocher, Braden-
town.

Illinois—R. Ex. Comp. Frank Spencer, Cairo.

Iowa—R. Ex. Comp. D. B. Aylesworth, Eldora.

Texas—R. Ex. Comp. B. K. Hawkins, Brownwood.

I received the resignation of R. Ex. Comp. William Rea, Grand Representative of Alabama, near the Grand Chapter of Canada, owing to the R. Ex. Companion having to leave Toronto, Ontario, because of the illness of Mrs. Rea, for the purpose of residing with his daughter in Westfield, New York. After considering the matter carefully, I decided not to accept the resignation, because of the valued services which had been rendered in past years by R. Ex. Comp. Rea to both Symbolic and Capitular Masonry. I am pleased to say that circumstances will again permit R. Ex. Comp. Rea to resume his residence in the City of Toronto, and to carry on his duties as the Grand Representative of the Grand Jurisdiction of Alabama.

COURTESIES.

There have been extended, during the past year, several courtesies between Chapters belonging to American Jurisdictions and those of our own in conferring degrees upon brethren who have made the request.

DISPENSATIONS.

During the year Dispensations have been issued for the formation of two New Chapters, one at Timmins, Ontario, to be called "The Northern Lights," and the other at Inwood, Ontario, to be called "Vimy." A number of other Dispensations have been issued, reference to which will be found in the report of the Grand Scribe E.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

A Communication was received from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland, asking for fraternal recognition. The Communication has been placed in the hands of the Chairman of Fraternal Correspondence and he will no doubt make special report to this Grand Body concerning the matter.

RULINGS.

1. The question was asked, if a Companion who was suspended for non-payment of dues in December 1913, and at the time of his suspension owed dues to the amount of \$4.75, was he liable for and should he pay the dues intervening, from 1913 to 1918, before he could be reinstated.

If the Companion, I ruled, paid the amount due at the time of his suspension, he should be re-admitted to his Chapter without the payment of the dues for subsequent years.

2. I was asked, if the examination of a Candidate in the Mark and Most Excellent degrees should take place in open Lodge, and if it was not the duty of the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, besides one of the Past Z's, to examine the Candidates.

I decided that the examination was to be held in open Lodge by the officers ruling the Lodge.

3. The question was also asked, if a newly installed Z. failed to appoint the officers of the Chapter such as Veilsmen, Overseers, etc., on the night of Installation would that not constitute an illegal Installation.

I ruled that the failure of the newly Installed Z., to announce the selection of his appointed officers, on the night of Installation, did not render the Installation illegal.

4. Three questions were submitted, which are set forth with the answers given :

(a) "No Chapter shall be opened unless there are present nine Royal Arch Masons, etc."—I am undecided as to what constitutes a quorum for the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degrees. Does this clause of the Constitution mean, that nine Royal Arch Masons must be present to constitute a quorum for the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degree ?

Ans.—Three rule a Lodge ; five hold a Lodge ; seven or more make it perfect, and I would therefore rule, that there must be, to make it legal, seven members present at a meeting of Mark Master Masons, and Most Excellent Master Masons.

(b) Is it permissible to confer any part, or all of the Work of the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degrees, on more than one candidate, at one and the same time ? If so, at what point in each of these degrees is such action allowable ?

Ans.—It is not contemplated, that more than one Candidate should receive the degrees at the same time, nor is any provision made for so doing. Custom, however, has countenanced the entrance of an unlimited number of Candidates for the Most Excellent Master's degree, and I think this may be continued. In the Mark Master degree one Candidate only, should be admitted, until after the obligation.

(c) At what point in the order of conducting the Most Excellent Master Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter should a Candidate be examined as to his proficiency in the preceding degree ?

Ans.—Candidates should be examined for proficiency in the Mark Master Masons' degree in a Lodge opened in that degree. Likewise in the Most Excellent Master degree before advancement. The time of

doing so would appropriately be immediately after the opening of the Chapter.

5. The Grand Scribe E., of the Grand Chapter of Alberta wrote to our Grand Scribe E., saying :

"A short time ago an application for Exaltation was received by Capital City Chapter, No. 13, G.R.A., of Edmonton, from Bro. A. C. Minty of Union Lodge No. 9, G.R.B.C. of Fort George, B.C.

"Unfortunately this Brother's application had been balloted on by the Companions of the Chapter before they realized that they were violating the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Canada, but have now requested me to obtain permission from the Grand Chapter of Canada to confer the degree on Bro. Minty.

"As there is no Royal Arch Chapter between Edmonton and Prince Rupert, and as Edmonton is much more convenient for Bro. Minty, it is respectfully requested that the Grand Chapter of Canada waive jurisdiction in this case, and allow Capital City Chapter the privilege of conferring the degrees on this Brother.

"In this connection I am issuing a circular letter to all Chapters in this Jurisdiction so that similar cases will not occur."

I directed the following reply to be written, respecting the Petition for Exaltation of Bro. A. C. Minty, that if he was a resident of the Province of Alberta, he is the material of that Grand Chapter, but if he is a resident of British Columbia, he is the material of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and the Chapters nearest his place of residence should be consulted and Jurisdiction waived.

6. The following questions were also submitted for my consideration, to which is set forth my answers :

(a) Is it permissible to confer the Royal Arch degree on more than three Candidates at one and the same time ?

Ans.—It is permissible to confer the Royal Arch degree on more than three Candidates at one and the

same time, provided the Candidates are conducted in lots of three, and in no other manner.

(b) Is it permissible for the chief Presiding Officer, in any of the three degrees, to dispense with the opening and closing ceremonies by ruling that the body assembled will open or close "without ceremony," in order to avoid detaining the Brethren to a very late hour when the evening's work is particularly heavy?

Ans.—It is not permissible for any Presiding Officer, except the Grand Z. to close any Lodge or Chapter without the full ceremony.

(c) How often during his term of office must a Second or Third Principal occupy his seat of office in the Royal Arch degree to entitle him to promotion at the Annual Elections?

Ans.—Every officer in a Chapter occupies his position until his successor has been elected and installed or invested. No Companion is entitled to promotion, but given such by the votes of his Companions.

7. The question was asked whether demits could be issued while a Chapter was closed for four or five months.

A Chapter, I ruled, must meet every three months, and that no demits could be issued unless passed upon in open Chapter. That is, if a Chapter did not meet, then demits could not be issued, and if the Chapter became dormant only the Grand Scribe E. was qualified to issue demits.

8. A Chapter in British Columbia having become dormant, the question was asked as to the standing of the members whose names appeared upon the books of that Chapter.

After reading Section 248, page 64, of the Constitution (1918), I decided that the Companions of a dormant Chapter whose books had been returned to the office of the Grand Scribe E., and who are found clear on the books, or who subsequently made good all

arrearages up to the time the Chapter became dormant, should be furnished with a Certificate of Standing by the Grand Scribe E.

9. I was asked whether a Brother, a member of a Lodge in Toronto, who has served his King and Country in the Great War, and having lost one of his legs, was eligible to become a member of a Chapter.

My answer was, that any Master Mason of good character and sound mind was not debarred from advancement in Royal Arch Masonry on account of physical disability acquired, after his admission to Symbolic Masonry.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The War is over, but the problems arising from that conflict are an ominous cloud, whose centre may contain death and destruction, and he would, indeed, be wanting in judgment, who would deny, that these problems bear the seed of future prosperity, or dismembrance of the Social Status of our whole country. The glib phrase of *Reconstruction*, so aptly coined by interested politicians, and the attempted divergence of the intelligence of the country, into by-ways of misdirected energy, are bewildering to the ordinary citizen. It cannot be denied that a great unrest is upon us. Nine-tenths of the population of this country are unsettled and disquieted. The great accumulation of riches by certain portions of the population, and the increasingly difficult endeavors of the ordinary citizen to make a living, for himself and family, are producing a spirit of discontent entirely foreign to the past. Never were Capital and Labor so widely separated and the agriculturalist has now entered the field as a unit in antagonism to both. The great underlying principle which actuated those who went overseas to fight our country's battles was *Service*. They gave up their to-day for our tomorrow. It would indeed be a sad commentary, if their great sacrifices were to produce a discontented and disunited people. Our country still requires this Service, not on the battlefield, but in the ranks of the true patriots, who are honestly endeavoring to reconcile the discordant elements in our country, whose activities

lie at the root of our present discontent. It is the duty of every good citizen to lend his intelligence to the uttermost for the solving of these problems, which are now facing us, and by an honest effort endeavor to bring form out of chaos.

I am frankly afraid of the future. It would be rash to deny that all sorts of heterodoxy is being preached throughout the land, socialism, extreme radicalism and the doctrines of the Bolshevik find their expounders in every place where men are gathered together, on the street corners, in the corridors of our public buildings, in our railway carriages ; every day, may be heard, outspoken exponents of these ideas, and our country requires the service of the large brains, and level heads, of her foremost men to curb the dangerous propaganda. Masonry as Masonry, must not, and I trust will not, enter into this turmoil of unrest, but that her teachings will be made manifest in individual Masons who, acting in their capacity as citizens, of this great country, must set themselves against the cry of the mob, which howls to down those who are responsible for direction of affairs and they must be equally resistant to the arrogant assumption of power in the hands of a few. Pure Democracy is the Government of the people, by the will of the people, and any departure from this law leads to Autocracy or mob rule.

A country can become too prosperous and suffer from dry rot, because the people in their prosperity become slothfully, indolent and indifferent to the manner, in which they are governed, and it is proved to be true in the history of all nations, that designing men seize the reigns of power for their own personal aggrandizement, and to the profit of a certain class or set, to which they may belong. On the other hand, a country may become too poor, owing to the indifference and ignorance of the population, which condition always leads to rebellion, murder and destruction. It is not my intention to say that our country is, at the present time, at either extremity, but great countries have been destroyed by the indifference of its people, and I would ask you to pause and think upon the future and where we are drifting.

CONCLUSION.

I now lay down the gavel of authority, which you so generously placed in my hand, with the hope, that you will look leniently upon the many instances, in which I have fallen short of my full Masonic duty. My heart and my inclination were always to be up and doing, but my restrictions proved to be dominant, and I have left undone some very important things which I should have done. Royal Arch Masonry has prospered and prospered greatly, during the six years which I have been a member of the Grand Council. Those true and enthusiastic Brethren, many of whom are now present, whose sustained efforts in the affairs of Grand Chapter, and the younger Companions, who have become imbued with the true spirit of the Royal Craft, are to be congratulated. I feel, that, in laying down this gavel, to be committed to the hands of such eminent Royal Arch Masons, as the Grand Second and Third Principals, the Grand Chapter of Canada will continue its honored advancement, shedding light in the pathway of Capitular Masonry, and contributing its disinterested benevolence to the welfare of those needy ones who are members of the Household of the Faithful.

For what you have done I thank you. I trust human frailty may never cause me to be unworthy of the great honor, and assure you that the Companions of Western Canada have appreciated the fact that one of their number has been selected, by you, to preside over this August Assembly. One more word and I am done.

You will note in this address, that I have made no mention of the increase in membership of Grand Chapter, our financial condition, approval of By-laws, and such other matters, because, I am convinced that these should be first announced in the reports of the officers whose duty it is to deal with such.

Fraternally submitted,

Arthur S. Gorrell

Grand Z.

